

REMARKS

This paper is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 30, 2003, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicants have cancelled withdrawn claims 11-14. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the following remarks in view of the attached translation of the Japanese priority document.

Submitted herewith is a verified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-152065 (hereinafter "the Japanese Priority Application"), to which the above-referenced U.S. patent application claims priority. The Japanese Priority Application was filed on May 23, 2000, and supports pending claims 1-10 and 15-20 of the present U.S. application. (See, for example, pages 1-4; page 9, paragraphs 10 and 11; and page 13, paragraphs 23 and 24 of the verified translation of the Japanese Priority Application.) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the verified translation of the Japanese Priority Application entitles the above-referenced application to the date of the Japanese Priority Application, May 23, 2000.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7-9, 15, 17 and 19-20. In view of the enclosed remarks and attached verified translation of the Japanese Priority Application, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable as written. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

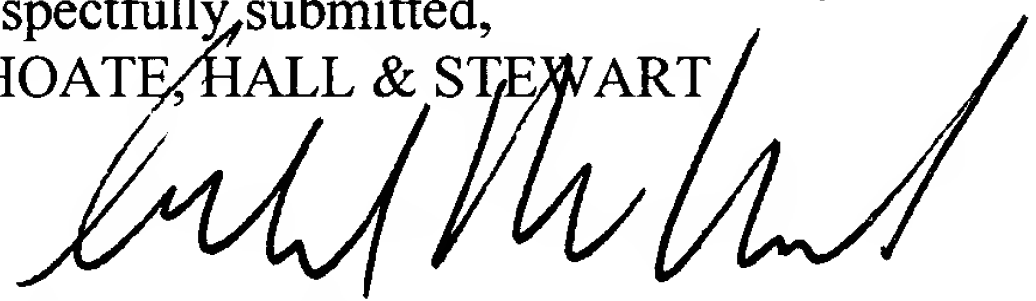
The rejection of claims 1-2, 10, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2000-224827 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter "Yamada") and the rejection of claims 3-6 under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada are addressed by submission herewith of the Japanese Priority Application. The date of the Japanese Priority Application, May 23, 2000, is prior to the August 11, 2000, publication date of the Yamada reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this reference and these rejections be withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-248-4038.

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Respectfully submitted,
CHOATE, HALL & STEWART



Donald W. Muirhead
Registration No. 33,978

Choate, Hall & Stewart
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 248-5000
Fax: (617) 248-4000